



# Child Protection Centers

Phone: 515-281-4816

[www.nca-online.org](http://www.nca-online.org)

Protecting & Improving  
the Health of Iowans



Child abuse. No one wants to imagine the mental and physical pain an abused child must endure. Unfortunately, the pain can sometimes be prolonged by the very systems designed to protect the victims. Child Protection Centers provide a safe environment where all exams and interviews can occur in one place.

**Emily's Story:** He told me not to tell anyone. He said I'd get in trouble if I did. He said no one would believe me anyway. But one day I finally told my mom. She hugged me and said she loved me. Then she took me to the Child Protection Center. Everyone there was so nice. They explained things in a way I could understand and made me feel safe. A lot happened - an interview, a medical exam, the trial. What happened to me was a terrible thing. But I'm glad the Child Protection Center was there when I needed it.

Child Protection Centers work to ease the pain of abuse through understanding and awareness.

## Did you know?

In state fiscal year 2016, 3,418 children were served in Child Protection Centers funded by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH).

### Why are Child Protection Centers important to protecting and improving the health of Iowans?

- Children who are victims of alleged child abuse can be further victimized by the numerous interviews and exams they undergo. At a Child Protection Center, all investigations to gather evidence can occur in one place.
- IDPH works with five Child Protection Centers in Iowa: Allen Child Protection Center in Waterloo, Mercy Child Advocacy in Sioux City, Mississippi Valley Child Protection Center in Muscatine, Regional Child Protection Center (Blank Children's Hospital) in Des Moines, and St. Luke's Child Protection Center in Hiawatha. To expand accessibility, additional services are provided at a satellite office in Mason City operated by Allen Child Protection Center, and via the Mississippi Valley Center's agreement with a provider in Davenport.

### Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Strengthen the health infrastructure

### What do Child Protection Centers do?

- Provide a comprehensive, culturally competent, multidisciplinary team response to allegations of child abuse in a dedicated, child/youth-friendly setting.
- Provide a team that includes law enforcement, county attorneys, physicians and nurses, mental health professionals, family advocates, and child protection center staff to ensure children and families are not subjected to duplicated exams and interviews.
- Provide a comfortable, private, child-friendly setting that is both physically and psychologically safe for children and youth.
- Build community awareness and understanding of child abuse.
- Coordinate and track investigation efforts so cases do not "fall through the cracks."
- Improve prosecution of child abuse cases; holding offenders accountable.

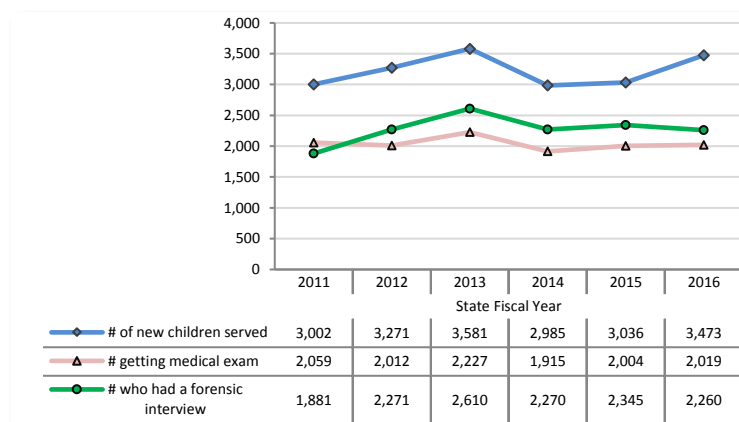
## How do we measure our progress?

- ❶ Number of new children served.
- ❷ Number of children who had a medical exam.
- ❸ Number of children who had a forensic interview.

Data Source: CPC Reports to IDPH. Data are available annually.

### How are we doing?

Child protection centers (CPCs) first received state funding in state fiscal year (SFY) 2005. The CPCs have used this funding to increase capacity and infrastructure. Based on a comprehensive assessment of needs for additional CPC services throughout the state, the Iowa Chapter of National Children's Alliance is actively working with areas determined to have the highest need to form full service CPCs or satellite centers.



## What can Iowans do to help?

1. Iowans who are abused or suspect that a child is being abused should seek help. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected,
  - ✓ CALL a DHS local office 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday-Friday. For an interactive map of county office locations and contact information, go to
  - ✓ [http://dhs.iowa.gov/dhs\\_office\\_locator](http://dhs.iowa.gov/dhs_office_locator) or
  - ✓ CALL Iowa's Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-362-2178.

For more information, go to <http://dhs.iowa.gov/child-abuse>

2. All Iowans can support Child Protection Centers and outreach efforts in new communities.
3. Public health professionals can build awareness of the Child Protection Centers and encourage use and support of their services. Go to [www.nca-online.org](http://www.nca-online.org) to learn more.

## Expenditures

Intrastate receipts\* (Dept of Human Services): K17-1764

	State Fiscal Year 2015 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2016 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2017 Estimate
Other funds*	\$1,626,491	\$1,649,870	\$1,658,285
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>\$1,626,491</b>	<b>\$1,649,870</b>	<b>\$1,658,285</b>
FTEs	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Note:** Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.

Iowa Department of Public Health ♦ Division of Behavioral Health ♦ Child Protection Centers

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